



**NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL
MINUTES
MARCH 21, 2018
7:00 P.M.**

Newberry County Council met on Wednesday, March 21, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at the Courthouse Annex, 1309 College Street, Newberry, SC, for a regular scheduled meeting.

PRESENT: Henry H. Livingston, III, Chairman
Kirksey Koon, Vice Chairman
Bill Waldrop, Councilman
Steve Stockman, Councilman
Scott Cain, Councilman
Travis Reeder, Councilman
Dr. Harriett Rucker, Councilwoman
Wayne Adams, County Administrator
A.J. Tothacer, County Attorney
Laurie Renwick, Clerk to Council
Debbie Cromer, Finance Director

MEDIA: Andrew Wigger, Newberry Observer

The meeting was duly advertised as required by law.

Chairman Livingston called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Bill Waldrop led the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Additions, Deletions, and Adoption of Agenda

Vice Chairman Koon motioned to adopt the agenda as presented; seconded by Mr. Reeder. The vote was unanimous.

2. Personal Appearances

a. Captain Gene Shealy, Newberry City Fire Dept. – Recruitment Update

Captain Shealy recognized and thanked the fire fighters in attendance and for their support. He stated that Chief Keith Minick put in for a grant 4 years ago because he saw a need for volunteers in the City of Newberry and he was successful in obtaining grant funding. He said he came on board to recruit, train, and manage fire fighters in the city. Chief Minick knew when he

wrote the grant that it would directly and indirectly affect Newberry County and the fire service. A CTC Program was established at the Newberry Career Center to obtain Firefighter Level 1 training in the first year and Firefighter Level II in the second year. This program was not just for the City of Newberry but for the county as well. In the first three years of the program, we have turned out 4 completers who have been placed in fire departments throughout Newberry County with Firefighter II Level Certification (255 hours of training). There is a need for future firefighters and it must come from the youth level. Captain Shealy noted that he is also responsible for educating Newberry Fire Departments and Chiefs on what they can do inside their departments to help recruitment and retention efforts. The 4-year grant was for advertisement and marketing, education of citizens, and to help place gear on the backs of youths through the Boy Scouts of America's Explorer Program. He noted that this program has grown from 5 participants the first year to 24 active explorers to date; 17 of those not in the City of Newberry's jurisdiction but are being trained by the City of Newberry once a month and most will enroll in the CTC training at the Career Center. Captain Shealy reported that in the last 4 years there have been 27 direct hires from the recruitment and retention grant in Newberry County; 21 county volunteers have been trained to the basic firefighter level in 3 years (113 contact hours); and 10 county volunteer firefighters have been trained to HAZMAT operations level (32 contact hours). The CTC Program has over 14 participants in Level I this year and 6 in Level II of which 5 are already members of volunteer fire departments in the county. Captain Shealy closed by saying we have a long way to go but we are not going backwards. In the last 4 years, we have made great strides with the recruitment and retention program and he hope this position will be sustained to keep us moving in the right direction.

Vice Chairman Koon asked Captain Shealy if he will forward the recruitment information given tonight to Mrs. Renwick, Clerk to Council, for distribution to council members.

Chairman Livingston thanked Captain Shealy for the many hours he has committed to this program. He said as taxpayers, we do not know the value that our volunteer program continues to bring and the savings to residents of our county. The more young people we can get into this program we can buy ourselves more time before we must go to paid fire service throughout the county.

Mr. Cain thanked Captain Shealy for building a program that is working for recruiting volunteers which we desperately need.

Chairman Livingston thanked all volunteers for their time, training, and dedication to provide this essential service to our county.

3. ***Ordinance #03-01-18: An Ordinance acting on a request to amend the Official Zoning Map established pursuant to Zoning Ordinance No. 06-11-16, codified in Chapter 153 of the Newberry County Code of Ordinances so as to rezone one real estate parcel totaling two and twenty-five hundredths (2.25) acres designated as TMS Parcel No. 592-46 from General Commercial (GC) to Single Family Residential (RS).***

Mr. Cain motioned to approve second reading of Ordinance #03-01-18; seconded by Mr. Waldrop. The vote was unanimous.

4. Resolution #01-18: A Resolution congratulating Newberry High School Girls Basketball Team

Chairman Livingston shared his enthusiasm as he invited Coach Mendenhall and the Newberry High School Girls Basketball Team up front for recognition on their recent Class AAA State Championship win.

Mr. Adams read Resolution #01-18 into the official record:

“WHEREAS, the Newberry High School Varsity Girls Basketball team posted a 25-4 record on its way to capturing the SCHSL Region 3-AAA Championship and the 2018 Class AAA Girls Basketball State Championship; and

WHEREAS, after falling in last year's game by one point, the team overcame many obstacles to not only return to the state championship game for the second consecutive year but capture the state title; and

WHEREAS, Newberry County wishes to recognize and commend the Newberry High School Varsity Girls Basketball team for this outstanding accomplishment.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL CONGRATULATES THE NEWBERRY HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM AND ITS MEMBERS:

Shandrick Davis, Diamond Davis, Rehgan Miller, Lindsey Ruff, Zacharia Epps, Tashari Hayward, Titiana Garrison, Rayanna Davis, Kelsey Felks, Jahliah Eigner, C’Xaurius Corley, Kelsey Havird, Morgan Moon, Somaria Ellis, along with Coach Melissa Mendenhall and Assistant Coaches Tonya Deese-Jeter and John Lesaine

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall be published in the official minutes of the Newberry County Council and a framed copy presented to the team.

AND IT IS SO RESOLVED this 21st day of March 2018.”

Chairman Livingston presented the framed Resolution to the team; photo courtesy of Andrew Wigger, Editor of the Newberry Observer.

5. Resolution #02-18: A Resolution to establish that no objection on behalf of Newberry County shall be made with regard to a petition to close a street or road pursuant to Section 57-9-10 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, as amended.

Mr. Adams reported that a property owner has filed a petition in the circuit court to close Tree Lane. He is the only resident served on this road which was dedicated to the county in 1969; however, the county has not maintained it and this Resolution informs the court that the county, as a party in interest, has no objection to its closure.

Vice Chairman Koon motioned to approve Resolution #02-18; seconded by Mr. Reeder. The vote was unanimous.

6. ***Acceptance of donated funds and execution of change order for Newberry County Museum – The county administrator is requesting that council permit him to: 1) accept donated funding in the amount of \$167,782.00 and 2) execute a change order to the museum construction contract for \$167,782.00 to build a mezzanine.***

Mr. Adams reported that council awarded a contract to MAR Construction on February 7, 2018, to renovate the Taylor Building for use as a museum. At that time, an alternate to construct a mezzanine in the building was also competitively bid; however, funding from the penny sales tax was not sufficient to pay for this part of the project. Since that time, the Board of Trustees for the Newberry Museum have privately raised the funding necessary for the mezzanine. In short, they would like to donate this funding to the county and for the county to execute the bid alternate as a change order.

Mr. Waldrop motioned to approve donated funding in the amount of \$167,782.00 for the Newberry County Museum mezzanine and authorize the administrator to submit change order; seconded by Mr. Cain. The vote was unanimous.

7. ***Committee Meetings***
 - a. ***Finance 3/19/18 – Debbie Cromer, Finance Director***

Mrs. Cromer, Finance Director, reported that the finance meeting was held on March 19, 2018, and Bill Waldrop was re-elected as Chairman of the committee. The operating budget and the community services budget for FY 18/19 was presented by Wayne Adams, County Administrator.

8. ***Appointments***

Vice Chairman Koon nominated Jerry Koon for reappointment to the Newberry County Water and Sewer Authority; seconded by Mr. Waldrop. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Stockman stated that he did not have an appointment but wanted to thank Mr. Ken McBride for his service on the Joint Planning Commission and that he will be hard to replace and appreciates all he has done.

Chairman Livingston nominated Terry Rawls for reappointment to the Newberry County Water and Sewer Authority; seconded by Vice Chairman Koon. The vote was unanimous.

Chairman Livingston nominated Kevin Shealy for an appointment to the Board of Rescue Squads representing Pomaria; seconded by Vice Chairman Koon. The vote was unanimous.

9. ***Public Comments (by those who signed up at the meeting)***

No comments.

10. Executive Session

- a. Matters involving attorney-client privileged discussions concerning the Opioid Lawsuit under §30-4-70(a)(2) of the SC Code of Laws as stated: Discussion of negotiations incident to proposed contractual arrangements and proposed sale or purchase of property, the receipt of legal advice where the legal advice relates to a pending, threatened, or potential claim or other matters covered by the attorney-client privilege, settlement of legal claims, or the position of the public agency in other adversary situations involving the assertion against the agency of a claim.

Mr. Waldrop motioned to go into executive for the matters mentioned above; seconded by Mr. Stockman. The vote was unanimous.

EXECUTIVE SESSION [7:24 p.m. – 8:53 p.m.]

Mr. Adams reported that council met in executive session and discussed the items stated for discussion and no action was taken in that session.

11. Comments/Request from County Administrator

No comments.

12. Comments/Request from Council Members

No comments.

13. Future Meetings

- a. Economic Development 3/26/18 @ 7:00 p.m.
- b. County Council 4/4/18 @ 7:00 p.m.
- c. Budget Work Session 4/9/18 @ 7:00 p.m.
- d. Public Safety and Courts 4/16/18 @ 5:00 p.m.
- e. County Council 4/18/18 @ 7:00 p.m.
- f. Public Works and Planning 4/23/18 @ 7:00 p.m.

14. Adjournment

Chairman Livingston adjourned the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

NEWBERRY COUNTY COUNCIL

Henry H. Livingston, Chairman

APPROVED:

Laurie N. Renwick, Clerk to Council